



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: May 1, 2012

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Betsy A. Hodges, Chair Ways & Means Committee

Subject: **Interchange Project Funding**

Recommendation:

- A. Passage of a resolution increasing a capital appropriation in the Street Paving Department (04100 – 9010937 – PV088) by \$1,000,000 for infrastructure improvements needed for the Interchange Project using fund balance currently available in the City's 04100 Permanent Improvement Fund.
- B. Direct Public Works and Finance staff to identify through the 2013 Budget Process a revenue source for the Interchange Project to restore the fund balance in the 04100 Permanent Improvement Fund.

Previous Directives:

- April 13, 2012 - The Public Works Department and Finance are directed to explore the options for funding up to \$1 million for public right-of-way infrastructure for the Interchange Capital Project and report back to the Transportation & Public Works and Ways & Means/Budget Committees in the next cycle with a recommendation for potential funding sources for cost sharing and to develop a cost sharing agreement.
- August 5, 2011 - Accept the invitation from the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority to become a formal cooperating agency on The Interchange project with the understanding that: City staff will have a strong role in developing, reviewing and participating in upcoming Requests for Qualifications, Requests for Proposals and public engagement activities, and that the public will be engaged in finalizing the design elements that are not "fixed technical required elements" – i.e. the aesthetic design/landscape of the public space.
- July 23, 2010: Council Action, Approve the appointment of three elected representatives from the City of Minneapolis to serve on The Interchange Working Group.

Prepared by: Brette Hjelle, Public Works Director of Administration

Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Kevin D. Carpenter, Chief Financial Officer

Presenters: Brette Hjelle, Public Works Director of Administration
Jenifer Hager, P.E., Principal Professional Engineer

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Action requires a capital appropriation increase using fund reserves currently available in the City's 04100 Capital Improvement fund

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable

City Goals: The city's infrastructure will be well-maintained, people will feel safe in the city.

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable

Zoning Code: Not Applicable

Background/Supporting Information

The Interchange in downtown Minneapolis brings together transit and development, creating a civic space that will connect multiple transportation options, support a vibrant regional economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase mobility.

The Interchange is operational today with 250 arrivals and departures daily via Hiawatha LRT and Northstar Commuter Rail. This will increase to 500 daily rail trips when Central Corridor LRT opens in 2014. The future Southwest Corridor LRT and Bottineau Transit Corridor lines will provide additional transit service and are anticipated to bring thousands of additional daily passengers to The Interchange. In addition, as of today, more than 1,900 bus operations occur within walking distance of The Interchange and the recent extension of the Cedar Lake Bike Trail will add access for 2,000 plus bike riders per day. The Interchange will also accommodate future intercity passenger rail service, including the Northern Lights Express from Duluth and high-speed rail from Chicago via St. Paul. Given these planned transit improvements, The Interchange is poised for expansion.

The Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) is leading efforts to advance development of The Interchange, provide facilities and services to support existing transit users and prepare for future growth. The Interchange has brought together multiple partners, including representatives from the community, neighborhood groups, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, Metropolitan Council, businesses, and local, state and federal agencies.

The Interchange project proposes some public infrastructure improvements in the form of realignment of the intersection of 6th Ave with 5th St North. The proposed realignment is supported by City Staff and aligns with the goals set forth in the Pedestrian Master Plan: A Well Connected Walkway System, Accessibility for All Pedestrians, Safe Streets and Crossings, A Pedestrian Environment that Fosters Walking, A Well Maintained Pedestrian System, A Culture of Walking and Funding, Tools and Leadership for Implementing Pedestrian Improvements. This intersection is currently not pedestrian friendly and consists of a large sweeping radius where traffic does not stop. The proposed improvement will realign this intersection to be a traditional four legged intersection, providing greater safety for pedestrians wanting to cross from the North Loop neighborhood over to destinations such as Target Field and The Interchange. This improvement will also coordinate perfectly with planned pedestrian way improvements that the City has proposed with its capital project along 6th Ave N from this intersection to Washington Ave. Once complete, these two projects will provide a consistent and ADA compliant pedestrian way from one of the major thoroughfares in the North Loop neighborhood to these important destinations. The funding request is to implement these public infrastructure improvements.